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Serial # 10/808, 667 Self-closing Valve Thurs. Interview
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Application No. 10/808,667

Docket No. P06104US2

22. A self-closing valve for the dispensing of flowable media from a container having;

a curved membrane, the curvature of which is directed toward the flowable media in the closed position and which curves outwardly into a dispensing position upon pressure being generated in the container,

~~a support segment which holds the valve to said container,~~

a connecting wall arranged between said membrane and said ~~support segment~~ a first retaining ring,

a slitting provided in said membrane which opens in the dispensing position, wherein said slitting is arranged such that upon the deformation of the membrane from the closed position to the dispensing position induced by the application of pressure to the container, elastic resilient forces are generated within the membrane which cause said membrane to retract from said dispensing position to said closed position upon depressurization,

said connecting wall between said ~~support segment~~ first retaining ring and said membrane is disposed with ~~an annular section~~ a disc-like area which is arranged substantially in a common plane with said ~~support segment~~ first retaining ring or on a plane which is parallel to same,

wherein the contact between the connecting wall and the membrane is configured such that substantially no or only minimal torque is transferred from said connecting wall to said membrane so that any torque transmitted from said connecting wall to said membrane has substantially no effect on the opening and closing of said slitting; and said membrane having a constant wall thickness; and

wherein ~~said connecting wall has an area is adjoined to said annular section of connecting wall, said area~~ extending upwardly in curved fashion at an obtuse angle from the ~~plane of the support segment and the annular section,~~ first retaining ring away from the container interior when the valve is affixed to the container; and the upwardly curved area merges with a hinge member into the membrane so that a transition zone between the connecting wall and the membrane is configured in a hinge-like manner.

42. A self-closing valve for the dispensing of flowable media from a container having;
a curved membrane, the curvature of which is directed toward the flowable media in the closed position and which curves outwardly into a dispensing position upon pressure being generated in the container,
~~a support segment which holds the valve to said container,~~
a connecting wall arranged between said membrane and ~~said support segment~~ a first retaining ring,
a slitting provided in said membrane which opens in the dispensing position, wherein said slitting is arranged such that upon the deformation of the membrane from the closed position to the dispensing position induced by the application of pressure to the container, elastic resilient forces are generated within the membrane which cause said membrane to retract from said dispensing position to said closed position upon depressurization,
said connecting wall between said ~~support segment~~ first retaining ring and said membrane is disposed with an ~~annular section~~ a disc-like area which is arranged substantially in a common plane with said ~~support~~

~~segment~~first retaining ring or on a plane which is parallel to same,

wherein the contact between the connecting wall and the membrane is configured such that substantially no or only minimal torque is transferred from said connecting wall to said membrane so that any torque transmitted from said connecting wall to said membrane has substantially no effect on the opening and closing of said slitting; said membrane having a constant wall thickness; and wherein said slitting comprises three slits which are configured so as to be star-shaped and which are arranged at the same angular spacing from one another.

43. A self-closing valve for the dispensing of flowable media from a container having:

a curved membrane, the curvature of which is directed toward the flowable media in the closed position and which curves outwardly into a dispensing position upon pressure being generated in the container,

~~a support segment which holds the valve to said container,~~

a connecting wall arranged between said membrane and ~~said~~

~~support segment~~ a first retaining ring,

a slitting provided in said membrane which opens in the dispensing position, wherein said slitting is arranged such that upon the deformation of the membrane from the closed position to the dispensing position induced by the application of pressure to the container, elastic resilient forces are generated within the membrane which cause said membrane to retract from said dispensing position to said closed position upon depressurization,

said connecting wall between said ~~support segment~~first retaining ring and said membrane is disposed with ~~an annular section~~

disc-like area which is arranged substantially in a common plane with said first retaining ring~~support segment~~ or on a plane which is parallel to same,

wherein the contact between the connecting wall and the membrane is configured such that substantially no or only minimal torque is transferred from said connecting wall to said membrane so that any torque transmitted from said connecting wall to said membrane has substantially no effect on the opening and closing of said slitting; and the connecting wall is thin and non-rigid;~~and~~ wherein in the transition zone between the membrane and the connecting wall an annular protrusion projects away from the container.